

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1841

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : AMGT, AFSP, CGEN, BA

SUBJECT : CONSULAR STAFFING

REF : MANAMA 556

1. REFERENCE REVIEWED OUR POSITION ON CONSULAR STAFFING, AND, IN VIEW OF OUR ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN CONSULAR WORKLOAD, REQUESTED THE IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT OF AN FSO VICE-CONSUL TO ASSUME CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES, VICE THE FSR OFFICER CURRENTLY HOLDING DOWN TWO JOBS IN EMBASSY. THIS REQUEST SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS DURING JULY 1974 INSPECTION, AND OUR EXPERIENCE SINCE JULY 1974 HAS MORE THAN BORNE OUT THEIR FINDINGS.

2. OUR NEED HAS NOW BECOME URGENT AS DEMANDS FOR CONSULAR SERVICES BY AMCITS ARE INCREASING AT A RAPID RATE. BASIC WORKLOAD INCREASE COMES IN "INVISIBLE" AND TIME-CONSUMING ASPECTS OF CONSULAR FUNCTION (PROTECTION, WELFARE, CITIZENSHIP, SEAMEN AND SHIPPING), AND SERVICES TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF AMCITS LIVING IN OR TRANSITING BAHRAIN. END OF OIL EMBARGO HAS BROUGHT INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICAN SEAMEN INTO BAHRAIN. FOR EXAMPLE, MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND (MSC) HAS RECENTLY STARTED LOADING PETROLEUM CARGOES HERE ON U. S. VESSELS WITH AMERICAN CREWS; BAHRAIN IS USUALLY THEIR ONLY PORT OF CALL IN A LONG VOYAGE AND

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NUMEROUS CONSULAR SERVICES, USUALLY ON AN EMERGENCY

BASIS, ARE REQUESTED. WE ESTIMATE AN AVERAGE OF 10 HOURS PER WEEK OF CONSULAR WORK IS PRESENTLY DEVOTED TO AMCIT SEAMEN ALONE.

3. IN ADDITION, LARGE (AND RAPIDLY GROWING) AMCIT WORK FORCE HERE BRINGS WITH IT MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF ISSUES WHICH THE AMCIT FEELS MUST BE PLACED PERSONALLY BEFORE THE CONSULAR OFFICER FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. THIS TREND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AT AN ACCELERATED RATE AS MORE SKILLED AMERICAN LABOR ARRIVES WITH CONSEQUENT MORE COMPLEX CONSULAR PROBLEMS. AT PRESENT WE ESTIMATE 10 HOURS PER WEEK OF CONSULAR OFFICER TIME IS EXPENDED ON THESE BASIC AMCIT SERVICES, AND EXPECT THIS FIGURE TO INCREASE.

4. IN ORDER PROVIDE THE TIMELY HIGH QUALITY CONSULAR SERVICE THE DEPARTMENT PROPERLY DEMANDS, WE MUST HAVE A FULL-TIME FSO CONSULAR OFFICER. FSR CURRENTLY FILLING CONSULAR SLOT CANNOT ATTEND TO HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE CONSULAR FUNCTION SIMULTANEOUSLY AND EXPECT TO MAINTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE IN EITHER AREA.

5. WHEN REFTTEL WAS PREPARED, BAHRAIN'S SITUATION DID NOT APPEAR SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER RECENTLY ESTABLISHED GULF POSTS DESPITE CONSULAR DEMANDS POSED BY OVER 800 OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS AND EVEN LARGER NUMBER NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS HERE. WITH CONTINUED PRESENCE LARGE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ASSURED, AND AS RESULT OF ADDITIONAL PRESSURES OUTLINED IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE, WE FEEL MANAMA'S REQUEST FOR A CONSULAR OFFICER SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.  
TWINAM

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